

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 00587 092105Z

65

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 157

INFO MTN GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 587

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, JM

SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 26631, (B) STATE 287116 (C)

KINGSTON A 2 (D) 75 KINGSTON 190

1. PRIMARY CONCESSION U.S. MIGHT SEEK IS GOJ'S GRANTING OF LIMITED QUOTA (\$100-500,000) TO LOCAL IMPORTERS OF U.S. RICE. SALES AMERICAN RICE FELL DRASTICALLY IN 1974-75 FROM J\$8 MILLION IN 1973-74 BECAUSE GOJ WOULD NOT GIVE QUOTAS. INSTEAD, QUOTA ALLOTTED TO GUYANA ON GROUNDS CARICOM COUNTRIES WHICH INCLUDES JAMAICA GIVE PREFERENCE TO PURCHASING COMMODITIES FROM OTHER MEMBER STATES. IN SHORT, GOJ CHOOSES HONOR ITS REGIONAL BEFORE ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS (E.G. GATT).

USG POSITION IS JAMAICAN DECISION TO GIVE FULL QUOTA GUYANA AND SURINAM (ON SMALLER SCALE) DISCRIMINATES AGAINST U.S. EXPORTS AND THEREBY VIOLATES GATT ARTICLES X AND XIII. U.S. RICE INDUSTRY PRESSING FIRMLY FOR QUOTA AND IF
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PAGE 02 KINGST 00587 092105Z

SIUTUATION PERSISTS, WILL PROBABLY FILE COMPLAINT UNDER

SECTION 301 OF TRADE ACT 74 WITH STR. REF C, STRENGTH OF
OPPOSITION LIES PRIMARILY WITH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION (ADC), GOJ STATUTORY ORGANIZATION, WHICH PROMOTES
EFFORTS TO ATTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN RICE BY 1985
AND ALSO NUMEROUS PRIVATE RICE FARMERS
WHO ARE GUARANTEED J\$0.11/LB UNDER ADC PRICING
SCHEME. LOCAL RICE IMPORTERS HAVE HAD NO SUCCESS OBTAINING
QUOTA DUE TO GOJ'S OVERRIDING DESIRE LOWER HIGH COST
OF IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS AND CONSERVE FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOJ DOES NOT APPLY NTB OTHER THAN BAN
ON U.S. RICE WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTS U.S. TRADE. ALL IMPORTS
REQUIRE SPECIFIC LICENSES OF TRADE ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
BEFORE GRANTED ENTRY. IMPORTERS ARE ALLOTTED ANNUAL QUOTAS
ON CATEGORIES OF GOODS BASED UPON PREVIOUS CEILINGS. PRIVATE
AND PUBLIC PURCHASES ARE BASED ON PRICE ON DELIVERY TIME,
SUPPLY RELIABILITY AND PROXIMITY RATHER THAN GEOGRAPHICAL
PREFERENCES.

3. REF D, U.S. GOODS EXPECTED COMPETE BETTER DUE TO CARICOM'S
ADOPTION OF SINGLE COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF (CET) USED BY EEC
MEMBERS. PRIOR ESTABLISHMENT CET, COMMONWEALTH GOODS BENEFITED
FROM LOWER PREFERENTIAL TARIFF VIS A VIS SIMILAR AMERICAN
ITEMS.
NEVERTHELESS, OVERALL TRADE BETWEEN JAMAICA, U.S. AND
OTHER MAJOR SUPPLIERS IN 1976 WILL BE SEVERELY AFFECTED
BY ISLAND'S B/P PROBLEMS. GERARD

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